

The Brethren Evangelist.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

S. J. HARRISON,
S. H. BashorEditor
Vice Editor.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

J. M. Tombaugh I. D. Bowman
C. Forney.

Address all communications for this office to Ashland, Ohio, and for the sake of convenience, make all drafts, express orders, etc., payable to S. J. Harrison.

A LETTER FROM BASHOR.

(Although evidently not written for publication we know our readers will be glad to read the letter, and as we do not see that it can do Bro. B. any harm we submit it for the benefit of all.)

WATERLOO, IOWA, Feb. 26, 1894.

DEAR BRO. HARRISON,—I spent a few days recently with Bro. Noah Flora at Dallas Center, assisting him in revival. There were eleven confessions, all of whom were to baptize after I left. The meetings should have continued at least a full week.

Our work here at Waterloo is moving along smoothly. The church is we hope growing in spirituality. What the future has in store for us God knows. He worketh all things for good, and we have full trust in his promise and power. The news that comes to us from all parts of the church indicates healthful and encouraging growth. Hard times are as a rule followed by great religious revivals, and, unless the rule is broken, the coming year will witness a great season of refreshing. Our brethren should be alert, and ready to meet the issue more than half way.

The Waterloo church has given me time to work for others, in short meetings and promise more.

You have the full sympathy of the public here in Homer's affliction. There are constant inquiries for information of his condition from private sources. We all hope for the best. Will give you matter for publication soon.

yours very truly.

S. H. BASHOR.

WHY IS LOVE MADE THE FOUNDATION OF SALVATION?

(Our first sermon delivered in College chapel.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON—Mk. xxii, 35, 40; John xv, 1-4.

It is natural to expect that whatever God calls upon man to perform is for his highest good. Having formed man, and that upon which he subsists, God knew and knows just what is in man.

What God does is always perfect. An infinite God could no more perform an im-

perfect act than a finite creature could a perfect. Whatever, then, that God prescribes for man we must believe is perfectly right and correct. From this conclusion there is no possible escape.

When the lawyer propounded the question to Jesus as to the comparative importance of the commandments, Jesus neither evaded the question nor said that all are equally important. Although we may think they are our opinion is the result of false teaching and not of Scriptural evidence.

It is an important part of a lawyer's business to ask searching questions, as those who have sat on the witness stand under cross examination can well testify. I am glad that lawyers interrogated Jesus. We have the truth brought to us clearer in all probability than if they had not.

The answer to the question, "Which is the greatest commandment," is my text: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind; * * * and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Mk. xxii, 37, 39.

While we enter upon its discussion let us not forget that *whatever* God recommends to us is the very best possible thing for us to do.

The kernel of this commandment is *Love*. The objective points are God and man. Why does God say we shall *love* Him, and *love* our brothers? Some people might feel that this question is irreverent, impertinent and unanswerable. But as we have no information that God was ever offended by an honest inquiry after the truth, so we do not feel that he will be by this. Moreover, the Bereans were commended because they inquired whether things were as they heard or not, and the Thessalonians were positively commanded to "prove all things and hold fast to that which is good."

Returning to the question of *why* God selected the emotion of *love* out of, and rejected all the other passions of the soul, as pride, ambition, envy, jealousy, malice, hatred, the answer is found;

1. In every individual's consciousness. Only when our souls are thrilled by love can we enjoy our existence. Those moments when we have looked up to God with our hearts overflowing with love to Him, or when we have looked upon the sweet face of some dear friend are the pleasantest recollections which fond memory brings to view. Oh, what exultant joy, what ecstatic pleasure we have had as we thought of the tender love and sympathy of a dear husband or wife, of the sweet, juicy innocence of eager inquiring children. What emotions can be compared to those which a mother

feels as she goes to the beds of her children locked in sleep's charming embrace and there looks at the silent slumberers, whose feet have not yet walked in the paths of sin. If there is any unalloyed joy in this world it is that which comes from loving the good, the true and the beautiful.

God is love. All his surroundings are love. Jesus was born of love. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." Jesus so loved the world that he left the glory he had with the Father and became a "man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief," and finally suffered and bled and died upon the cross to place a crown of righteousness within our reach.

The only Heaven there is either present or future is a place of Pure love. We are here given a few years of probation in which we choose our eternity. The "Broad way" is the one upon which our evil passions—envy, hatred, jealousy, pride, lust and covetousness—travel.

Homes which typify Heaven are where Love sits upon the throne. Every son or daughter bartered off in marriage by parents whose God is the dollar put the most galling yoke upon the neck of their child which the ingenuity of Hell has ever constructed.

If there were no happiness to be found outside the walls of millionaires this world would have very little of the Heavenly element. Has our love increased with our fortunes? Has it vanished when our riches took wings and flew away? Is there more of it in our costly mansions than in the cabins of our forefathers? He who looks to this world for happiness is like a starving man searching an empty cupboard for something to eat. The recent quarrels in the families of the Astors and Blaines, and the scandals fastened to Lords of Great Britain demonstrate the powerlessness of fame or money to purchase love or save from ruin and shame.

Love is an inheritance of God, incorruptible, undefiled that fadeth not away. Those who are born of God are born of Love. Its birth mark is the only badge of discipleship. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, because you have love one for another." "We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren."

As light and darkness can not dwell together, neither can love and hatred. We can not serve opposing masters. We can not, at the same time, travel toward Heaven and Hell. We can not carry the Lord's goods on one shoulder and the Devil's on the other. We can not be a Christian at the Communion table and a sinner at our